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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a). 3,479·88 acres.

" (b) (1) 1,072·78 acres.

(2) 2,407·10 acres."

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHAYYA :—" Sir, in view of the fact that lands covered by pattas are negligible when compared with the sivoijama lands enjoyed by the people, do the Government realize the hardship caused to the owners by the Government taxing the water that they utilize from the wells sunk by them at their cost and labour? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, I shall take steps to remedy the state of affairs and hasten the process of issuing pattas."

Opening of a bus route from Sankarapuram to Mungilturaippattu in South Arcot district.

* 565 *Q.*—SRI K. PARTHASARATHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representations have been received by the Government from the public and the Vice-President of the District Board, South Arcot, since 1952 for opening a bus route in the road from Sankarapuram to Mungilturaippattu in South Arcot district; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" A representation was received from the people of Mungilturaippattu in December 1953 to extend the bus route from Cuddalore to Sankarapuram *via* Tirukoyilur up to Mungilturaippattu.

" (*b*) It is reported that the road between Sankarapuram and Mungilturaippattu is not fit for bus traffic and that the repairs and improvements will be completed shortly. As soon as the report of the Divisional Engineer (Highways) regarding the fitness of the road for bus traffic is received, the question of the introduction of bus service on this route will be taken up."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Sir, now the road has been improved and made fit for motor transport. Will the Government expedite the opening of the road? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, we hope to receive the report from the Highways Engineer and as soon as the report's received we shall take up the question."

Visit of Inspector-General of Police to Tanjore district.

* 566 *Q.*—SRI N. SIVARAJ : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Inspector-General of Police paid a visit to the Tanjore district during January 1954;

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(b) whether any memorandum was submitted to him by the mirasdars of Tanjore district;

(c) if so, the contents of the memorandum; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) No, Sir.

" (c) & (d) Do not arise."

Medical aid to the people of Agathi Island.

* 567 Q.—SRI A. APPU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any report that dysentery is prevalent in Agathi Island where there is no medical aid; and

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The Medical Officer attached to the Government Dispensary, Kavarathy Island was immediately asked to proceed to Agathi Island. He was not able to do so as the wind was not favourable. However he reached Agathy Island on 24th March 1954 and camped there till 29th March 1954. Soon after an Assistant Surgeon who was specially sent to Agathy Island by a specially chartered ship with the necessary medical aid, landed on the Island on 4th April 1954 and undertook relief work."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know how many casualties were there before the medical officer reached the Island? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" According to the Medical Officer who went there, he said there could not have been more than 20 genuine cases of dysentery at the time."

SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB :—" May I know, Sir, whether there are any hospitals in the Island and if so how many and in which Islands they are situated? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There are about five doctors in the Laccadive and Amindivi Islands."

SRI V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister for Public Health has ever visited the island? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I had no occasion to visit the island. The Hon. Minister for Revenue was proposing to go there but he did not go."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Sir, is it a fact that a large number of deaths took place before the doctors arrived there and rendered help to the suffering people there? "